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THOMAS THE TANK ENGINE & FRIENDS

Based on The Railway Series by The Rev. W. Awdry

ISSN 0954-9390

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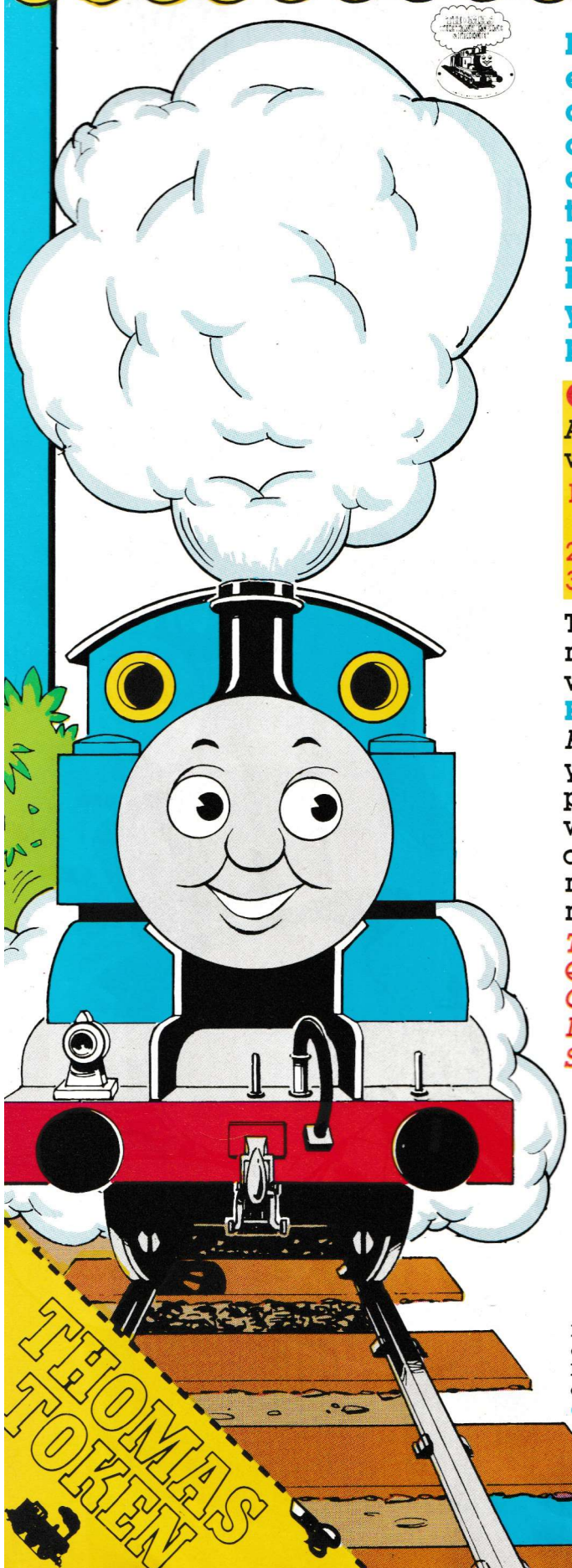
THE THOMAS CLUB PAGE



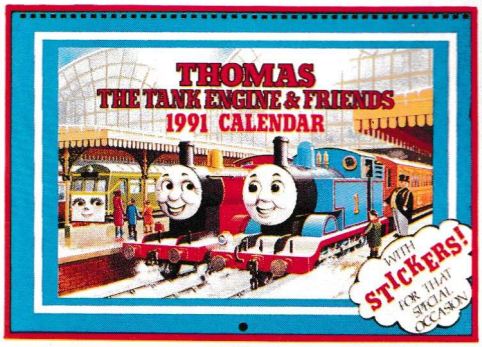
Peep! Peep! Bill and Ben are the saddle tank engine twins. They pull the trucks full of china clay from the clay pits to the harbour, on the Fat Controller's railway. Bill and Ben are very mischievous too, and often play tricks on the other engines! One day in particular, they decided to play a trick on Percy! You can find out what they did when you read the story that begins on the next page! Peep! Peep!

CALLING ALL CLUB MEMBERS!

Answer these 3 questions correctly and you could win a splendid prize...

1. What are the names of Thomas's two faithful coaches?
2. Bill has a twin, but what is his name?
3. What number engine is Duck?

The first **10** correct entries from **Thomas Club** members which are pulled out of our postbag will win a splendid **Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends** calendar for 1991 – from *Judges Postcards Ltd.* Send your answers on a postcard together with your name, address and membership number, to: *Thomas Calendar Quiz, Marvel Comics Ltd, 13-15 Arundel Street, London WC2.*



The competition will end on **Friday 7th December 1990.**

THOMAS POSTER MAGAZINE!

Don't miss the **Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends Poster Magazine,** on sale in your newsagents, now! Each page contains puzzles plus activities, and opens out into a splendid, huge wall poster!

MEMBERSHIP CARDS

If you would like to become a member of the **Thomas Club** and receive a splendid membership card, just collect 3 tokens like the one at the bottom of this page! Send one **red, yellow** and **green** token together with a stamped addressed envelope, to: *Thomas Membership Cards, Marvel Comics Ltd, 13-15 Arundel Street, London WC2.*

THOMAS TOKEN

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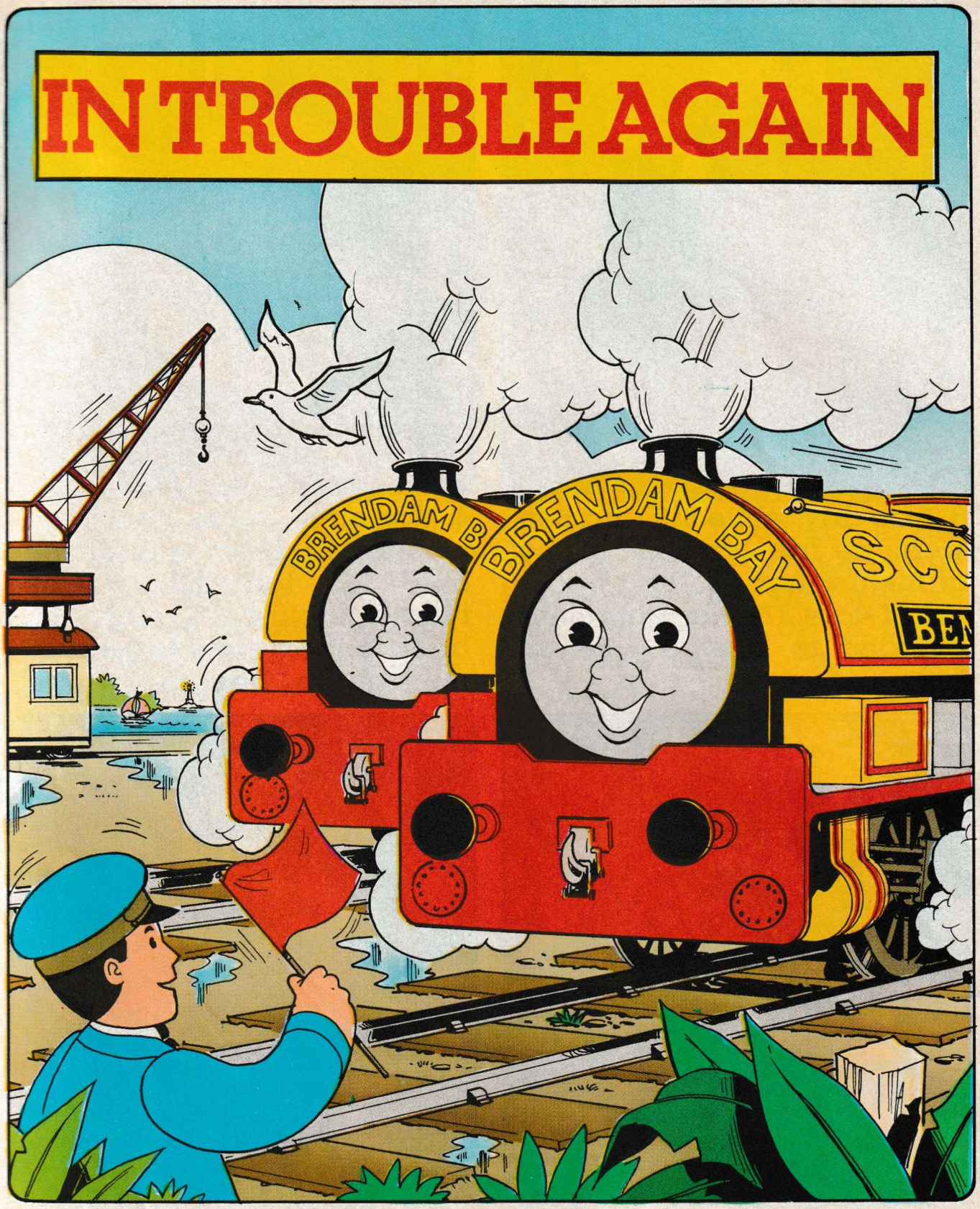
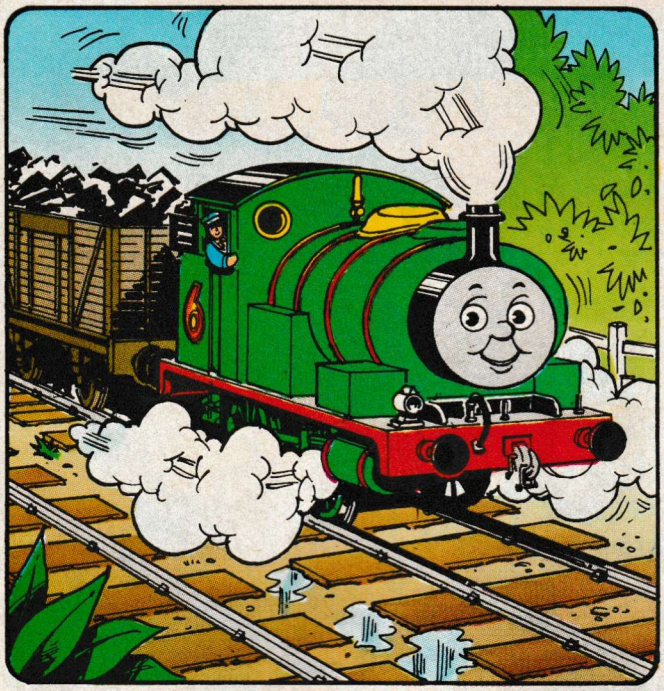
ABC

A listen and look story!

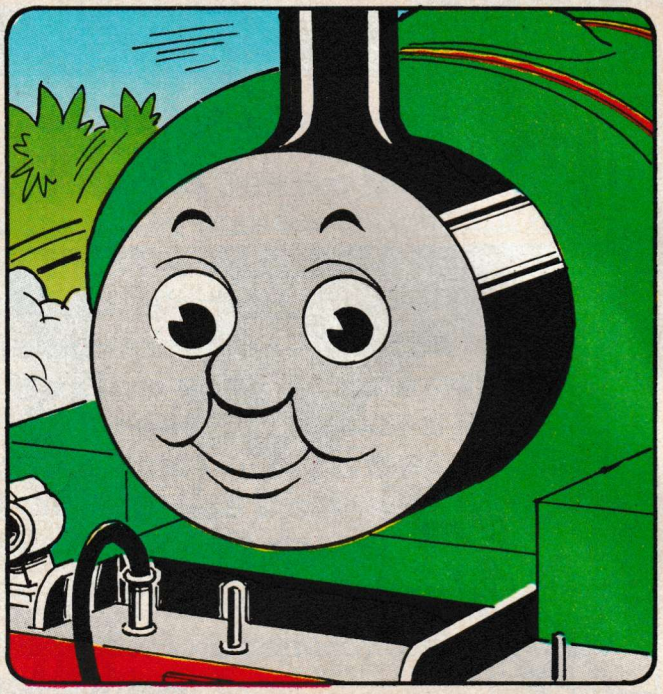


1. Everyone knows Bill and Ben. They are the Saddle Tank Engine twins. Their job is to take the trucks of china clay from the clay pits and bring them to the Big Harbour.

2. Bill and Ben love working on the railway. But they are rather mischievous. Sometimes they play tricks on the other engines. This gets them into trouble.

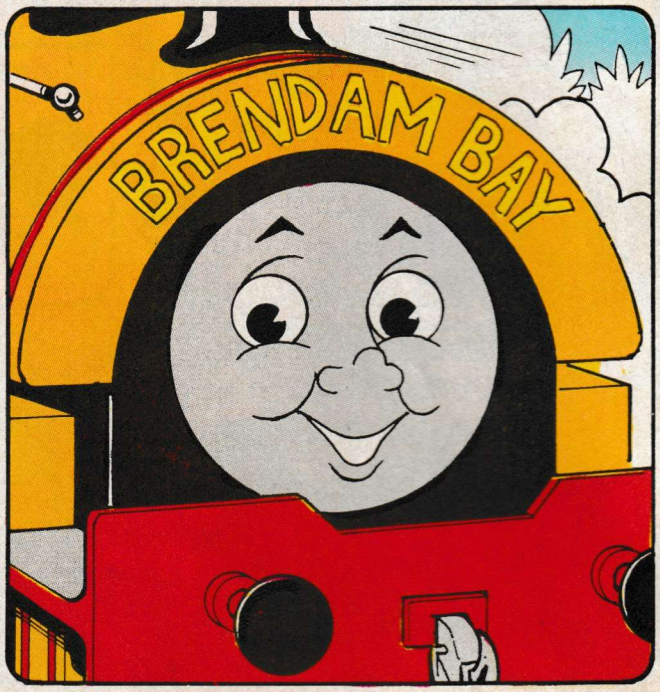


3. One day, while Bill and Ben were at the harbour, Percy came through, pulling trucks full of slate. The naughty twins decided to play a joke on him.

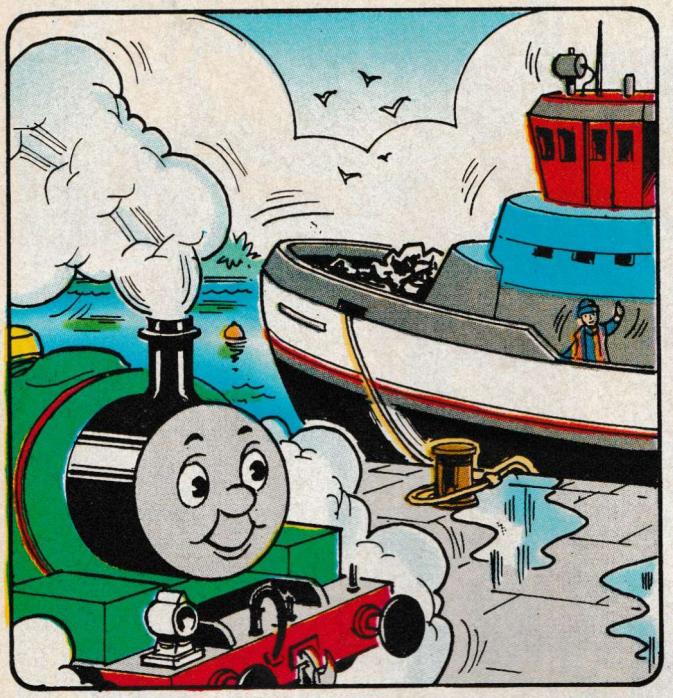


4. When the trucks had been uncoupled, Percy was driven onto the turntable to be turned around. "I must get back to the quarry to pick up more trucks," he said.

5. "You can't go just yet, Percy," called Bill from the other side of the track. "The Fat Controller said that he wants you to wait for the coal ship to come in."

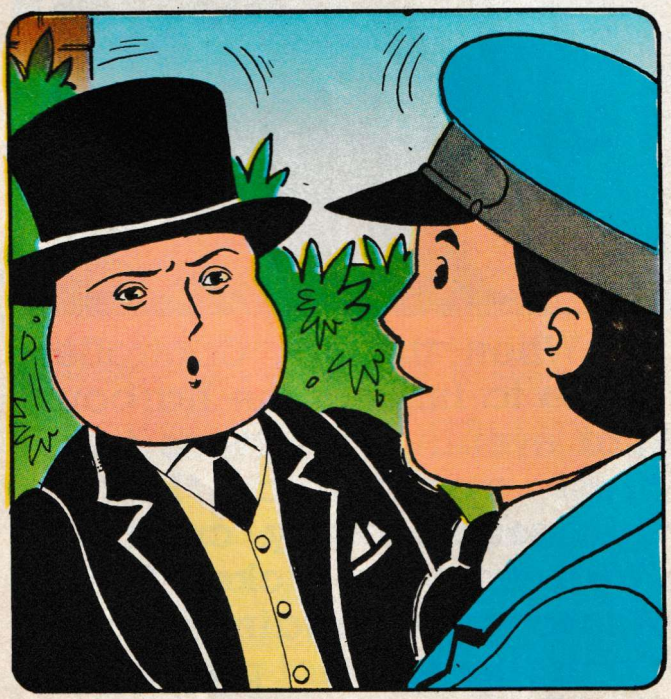


6. "Whatever for?" asked Percy. Ben tried not to chuckle. "He wants you to take coal to the main station!" he said. "They've run completely out."



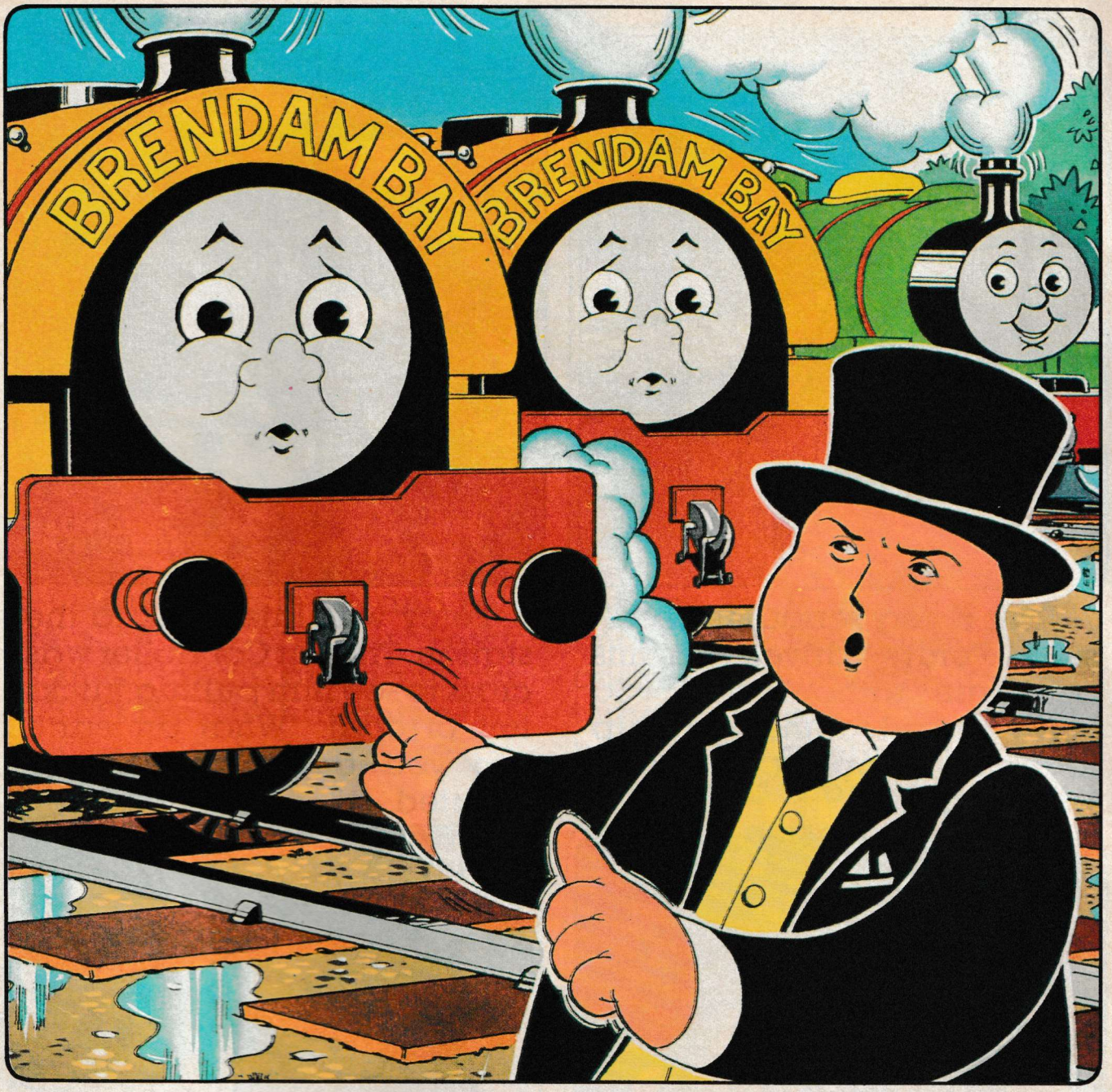
7. "This is very serious indeed!" said Percys driver. "Trains can't run without coal." So Percy waited for the coal ship to arrive. It took a very long while indeed.

8. Percy was late back to the station. The Fat Controller was cross to see him pulling trucks full of coal. "What on earth are you doing, Percy?" he shouted.



9. Percy's driver explained what Bill and Ben had said. "You shouldn't always believe those silly engines," said the Fat Controller. Percy was cross too.

10. The next day, Percy pulled more slate trucks to the harbour. Bill and Ben were there, unloading some trucks, "Come for some more coal, Percy?" teased Ben.



11. "No, thank you very much," said Percy politely. "The Fat Controller was very angry when he discovered the trick you played on me. I overheard him saying that he is going to send you away because of all the mischief you get up to." Bill and Ben were most upset to hear this. They didn't want to leave the railway.

12. When the Fat Controller came to inspect the harbour that evening, the twins were most apologetic. "Please don't send us away," cried Bill. "We're sorry we tricked Percy. We won't do it again!" The Fat Controller was not pleased. "I should hope not! But I never said I'd send you away. Percy's played a trick on you, too!" The twins did feel silly.

THE END

Another story begins on page 13!

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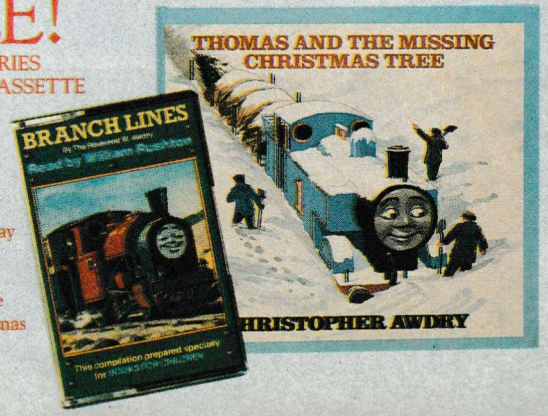


A read-aloud story!

Rotten Buffers!

Diesel is often rough with his trucks. The trucks don't like it at all. Diesel bumps and jerks them and it is very uncomfortable. The trucks always hope that another engine will be taking them, but if it is Diesel they often try to bump him back!

One day Diesel was backing some trucks onto a siding in the Big Harbour Yard. He wasn't shunting carefully, as most other engines would. Diesel was reversing very fast!

buffers

"Mind how you go there, Diesel!" called Duck. "You have to stop with those trucks, you know!"

"The buffers will stop them!" shouted Diesel. With a **CRUNCH** the trucks came to a stop, hard against the buffers.

"Ooh! Oh! Ouch!" the trucks moaned.

Diesel just laughed.

Later that afternoon, some men were walking around the Big Harbour Yard with the stationmaster. Duck wondered what they were doing.

"Probably just some paperwork business!" hissed Diesel. "I wouldn't let it trouble **your** boiler!"

Diesel slid away. He didn't see the men looking at the buffers. Duck heard the men talking. They were saying something about 'rot' and 'replacements.'

Then the men put up a sign at the beginning of the siding. The sign said **'DANGER! DEAD SLOW!'**

"Did you see what the men did?" Duck asked Diesel later.

"No," said Diesel. "It's of no interest to me what they do!"

"But," Duck insisted, "did you see the. . ."

"See?" hissed Diesel. "See what?! Silly paperwork business! It's stuff and nonsense!" And he slid away.

The next day Duck saw Diesel backing some trucks down the siding where the men had put the sign. As usual, he was going very fast.

"Be careful!" shouted Duck.

"The buffers will stop them," called Diesel.

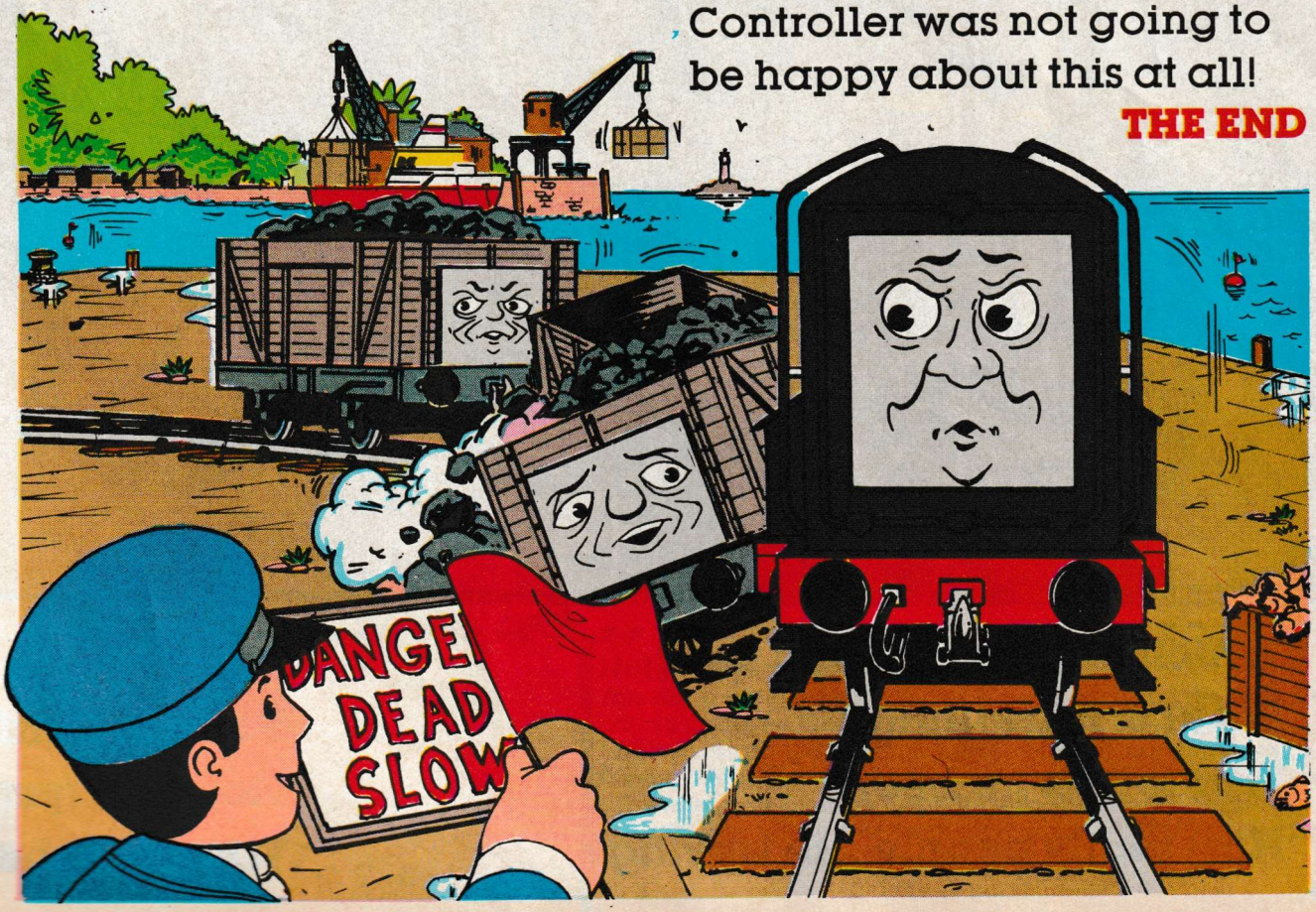
"But the buffers are. . ."

CRASH!

". . . rotten," said Duck.

Diesel had backed the trucks right through the rotten buffers and off the end of the rails! The Fat Controller was not going to be happy about this at all!

THE END



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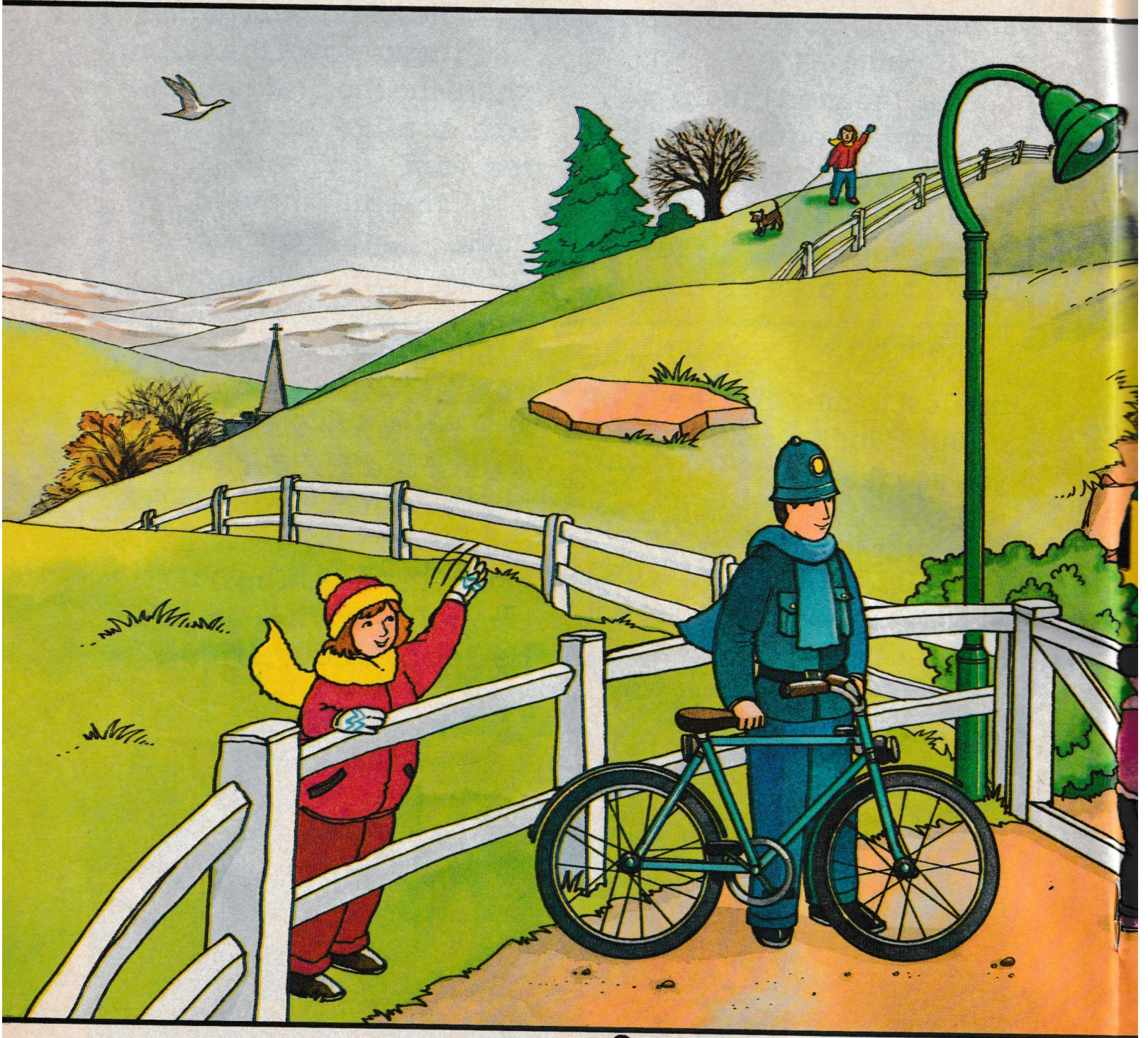
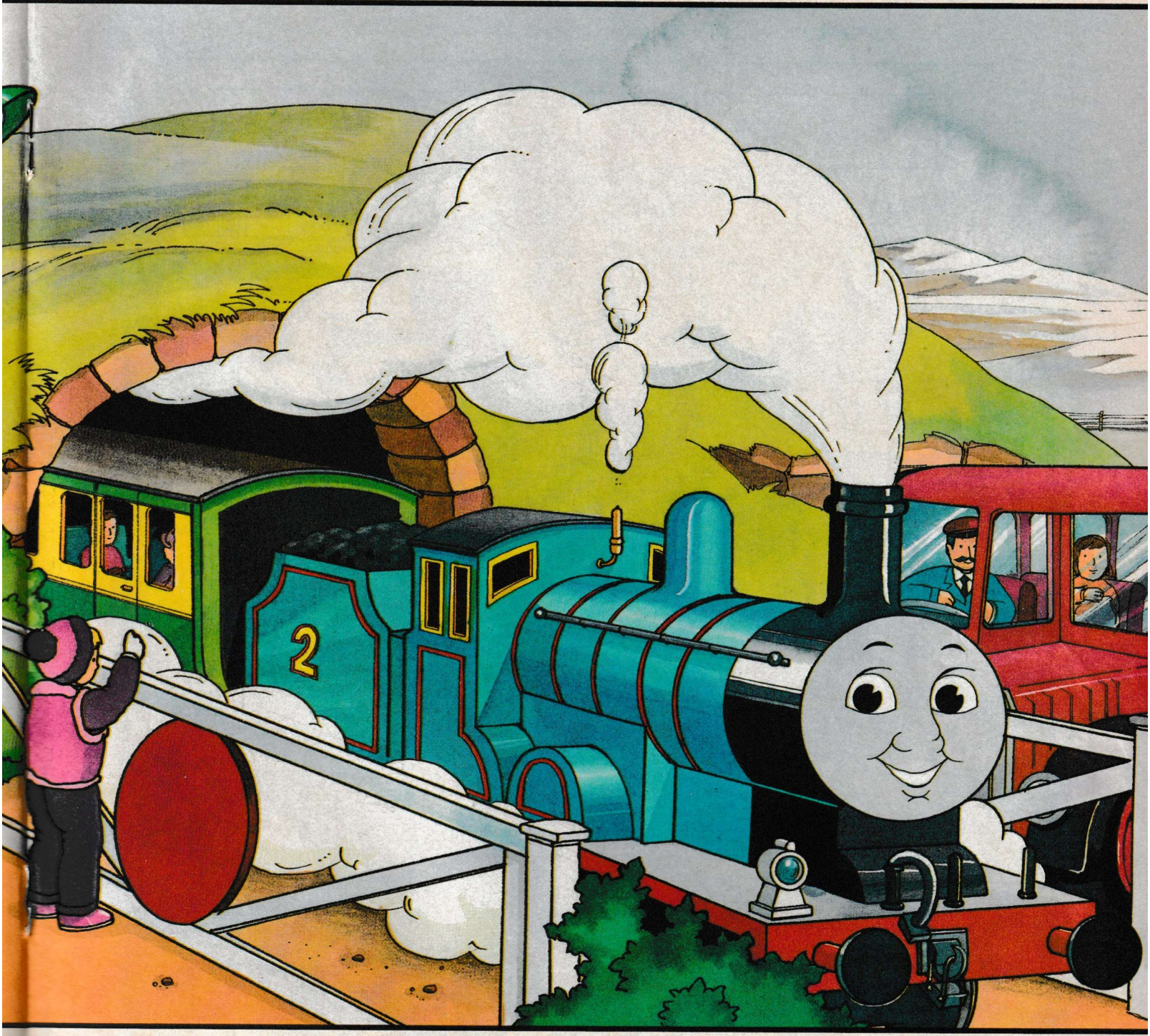


Which engine can you see?
What is he pulling?
Where has he been?
How many people are waving?

What colour is the p
Point to Bertie the Bu
How many animals
What are they?

vel crossing!



e policeman's scarf?

e Bus!

ls can you see?

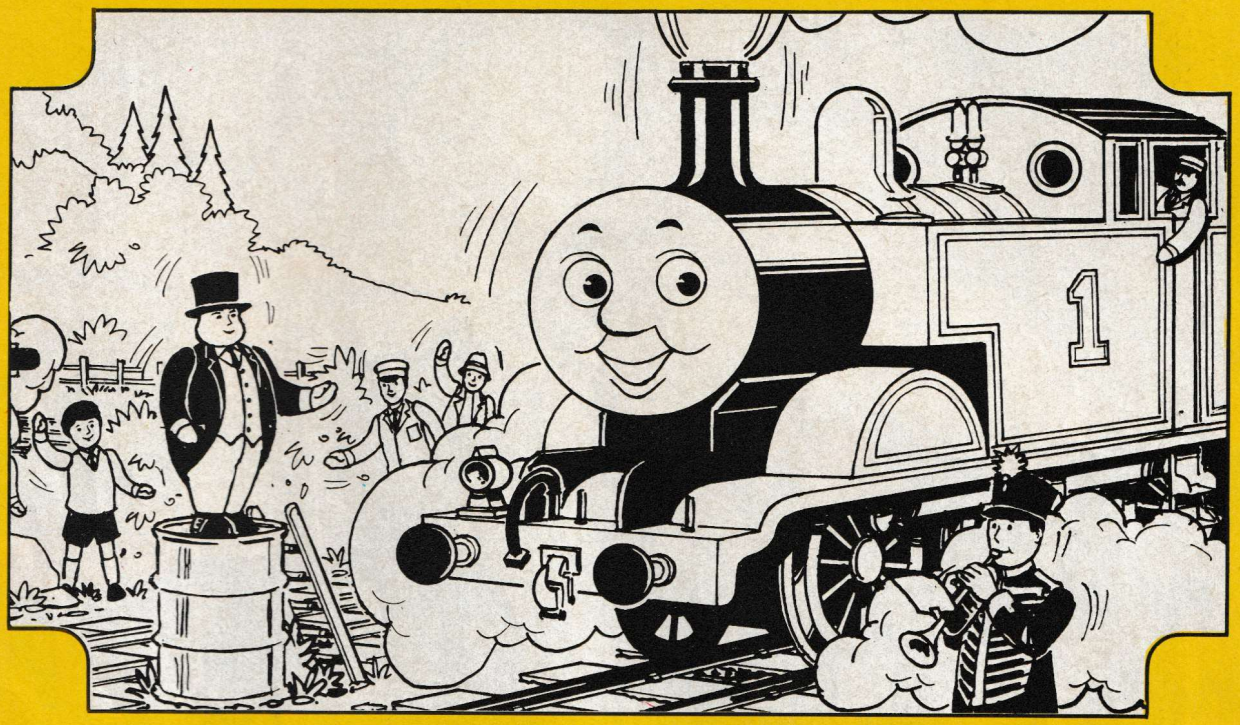
Note for parents

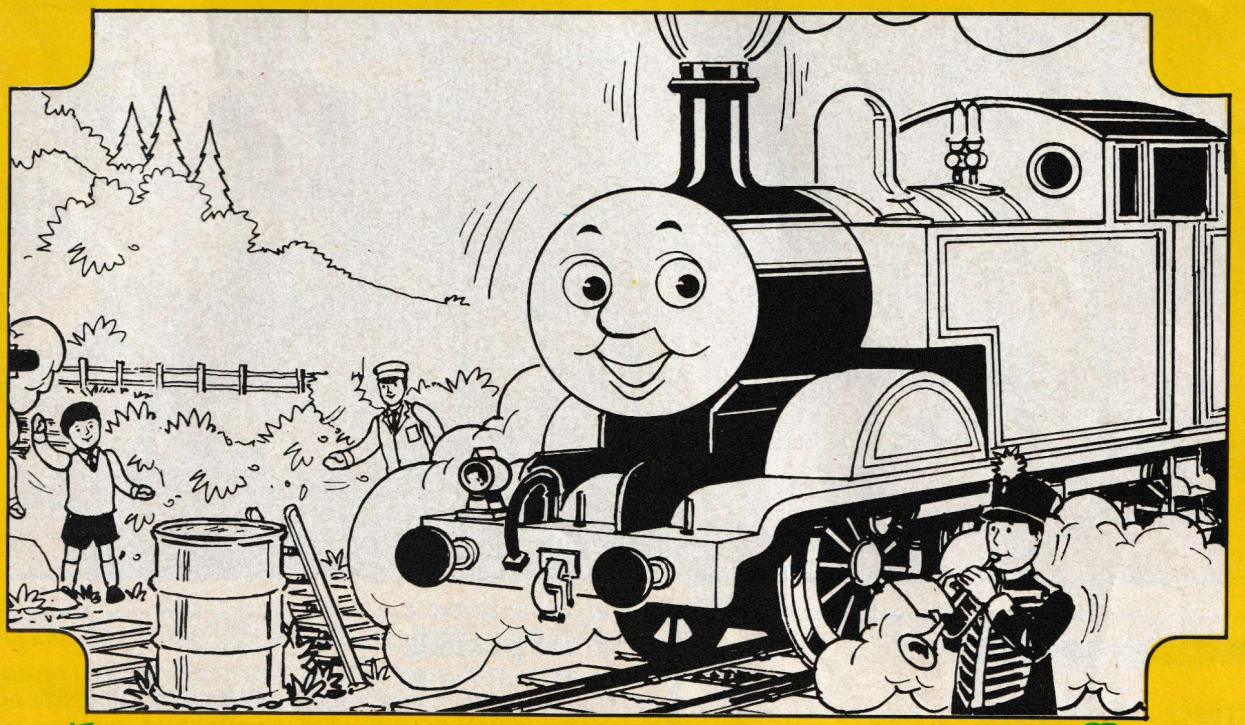
This page is designed to form part of a colourful mural for your child's bedroom, playgroup or classroom. After you have finished reading the comic with your child, remove this part of the centrespread by cutting along the dotted line. There will be a 'mural page' in every issue of **Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends.** Why not collect each one and watch Thomas and his friends puff all round the room!

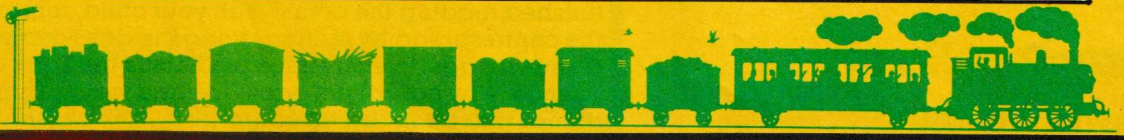
Next issue: Preparing for Christmas!

PUZZLE TIME

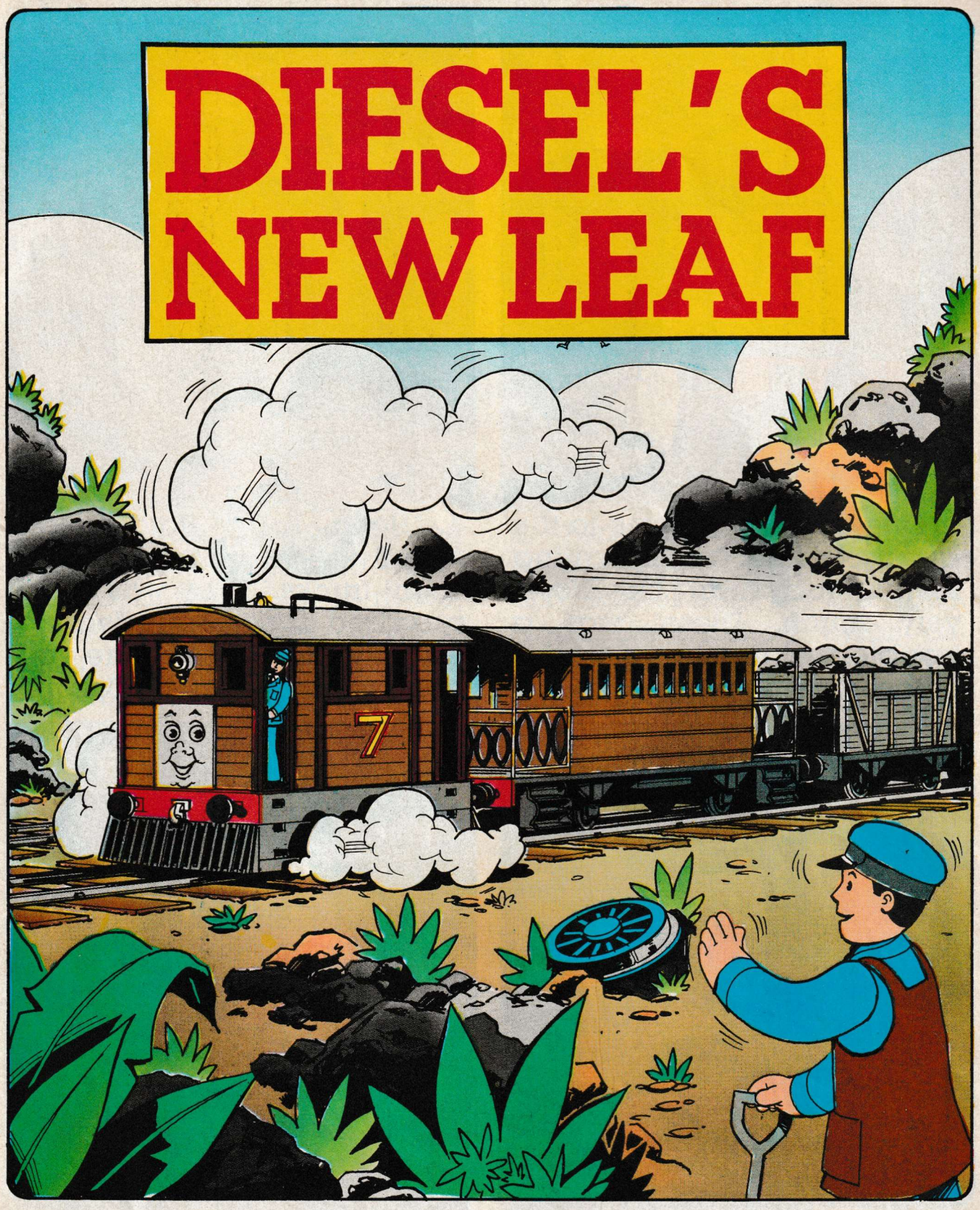
These two pictures may look exactly the same – but are they? Look at them very carefully and see if you can find five differences. Then you can colour them in, too!





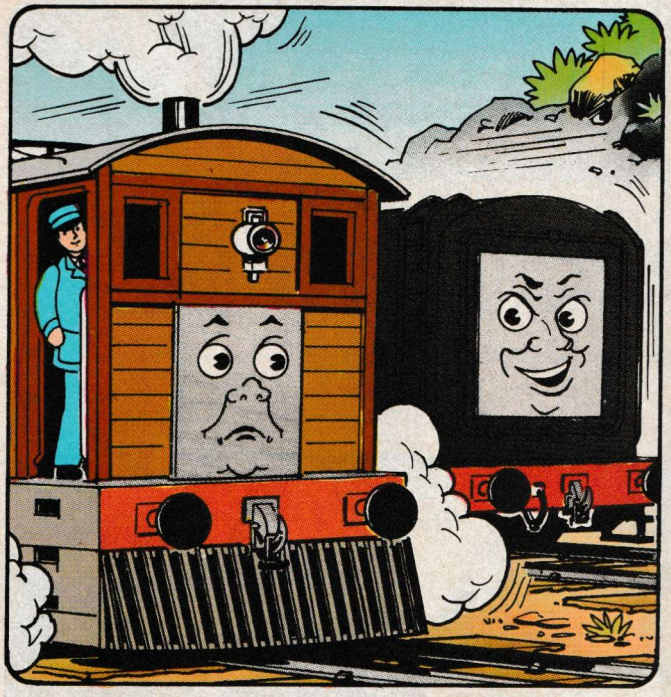


A listen and look story!

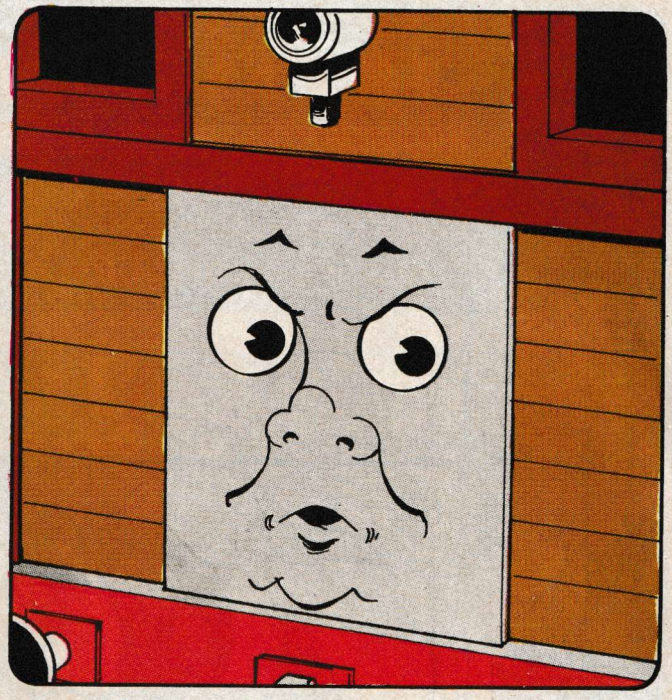


1. Toby is an old-fashioned steam-driven tram engine. He works on the outlying quarry line with his coach, Henrietta. Toby's job is to shunt trucks in the quarry.

2. Toby likes his work. He has lots of friends. The trucks enjoy being shunted by Toby because he treats them kindly. He doesn't bump them like some engines would.

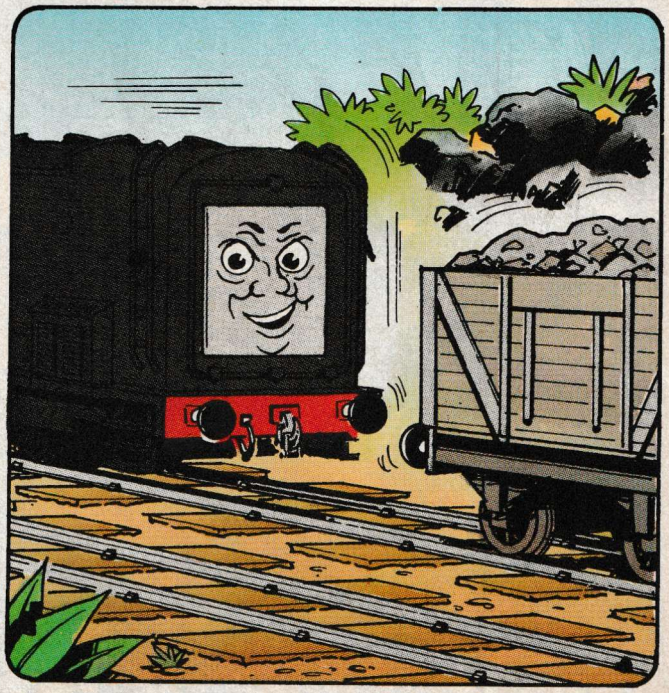


3. One day, Toby came to the quarry to find Diesel waiting for him. Toby didn't like Diesel very much. Diesel was a trouble-making engine who enjoyed being nasty.

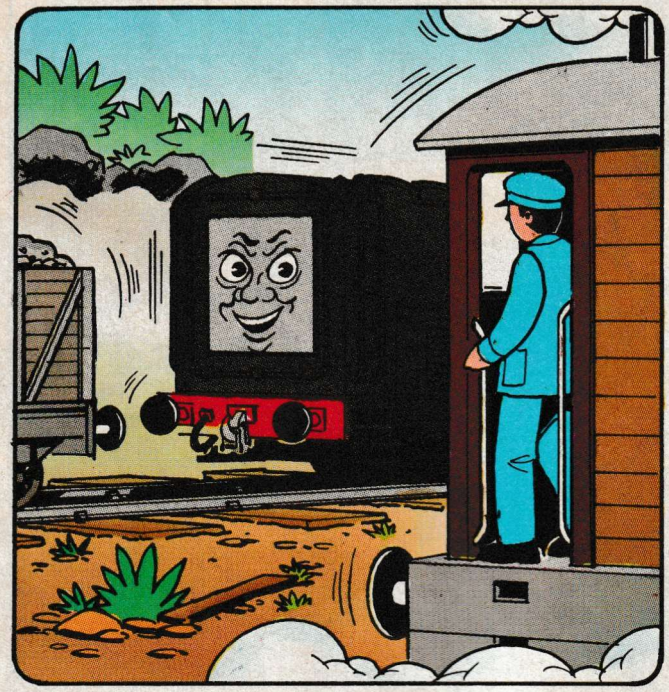


4. "Hello, Toby!" said Diesel sweetly. "I've come to help shunt trucks." Toby was quite surprised. Diesel sounded too friendly. "Just make sure you behave yourself," said Toby.

5. "Oh, I will," said Diesel. "You don't have to worry about me at all. I know what I'm doing and I have decided that I'm going to work very hard indeed."

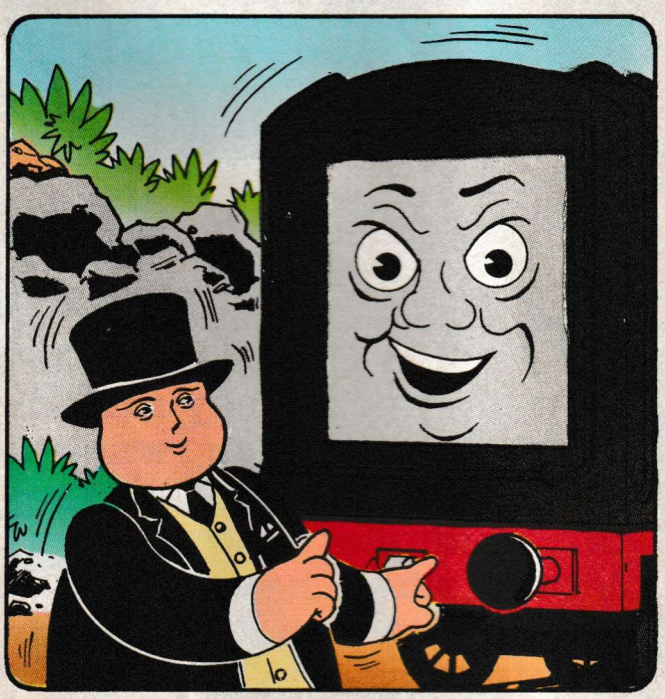


6. Toby didn't believe Diesel. He thought he was up to something. But Diesel worked very hard, shunting trucks from one end of the quarry to the other.

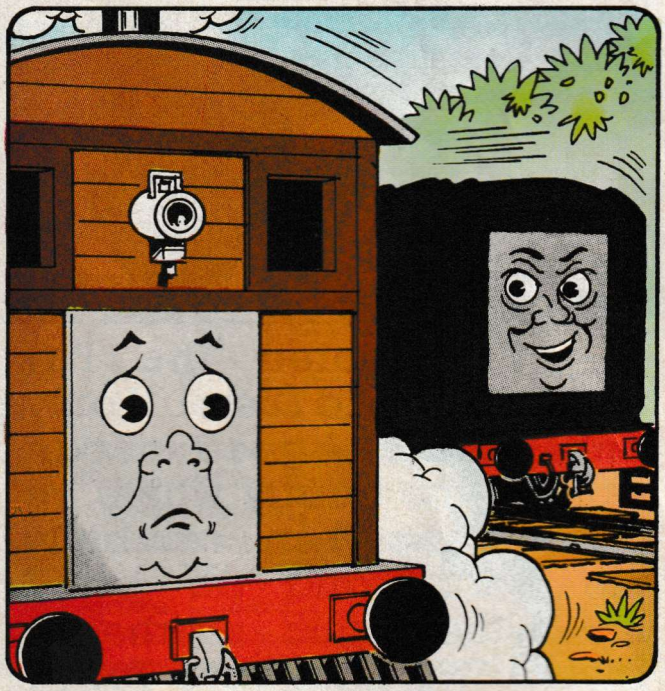


7. Toby was surprised to see Diesel working so hard. When the trucks were slow to move, Diesel didn't shout or complain. He just whistled cheerfully to himself.

8. "Perhaps Diesel is helpful, after all," thought Toby. All day, Diesel kept up the hard work. He shunted twice as many trucks as Toby. This made Toby look slow.



9. When the Fat Controller came to the quarry, he was pleased to see how hard Diesel was working. "I may let you work at the quarry full time, Diesel," he said.



10. Toby was horrified to hear this. "This means I'll be moved somewhere else!" he cried. When the Fat Controller had gone, Diesel gave an oily laugh.

11. "I've fooled the Fat Controller," said Diesel. "I only pretended to be good so I can work at the quarry where he can't see me. Then I can bully the trucks and do as I like." The trucks overheard Diesel. "We must save Toby's job," said one. "If Diesel works here with us Toby will be sent away."

12. So when Diesel came to shunt the trucks, they rattled so much that their wheels slipped off the tracks. The Fat Controller was not pleased when he heard the news. "If you can't do your job properly, you'll have to go back to the station, Diesel." "Hooray" sang the trucks. Toby would still work at the quarry, after all.

THE END

More fun on the line in our next issue!

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THOMAS THE TANK ENGINE & FRIENDS

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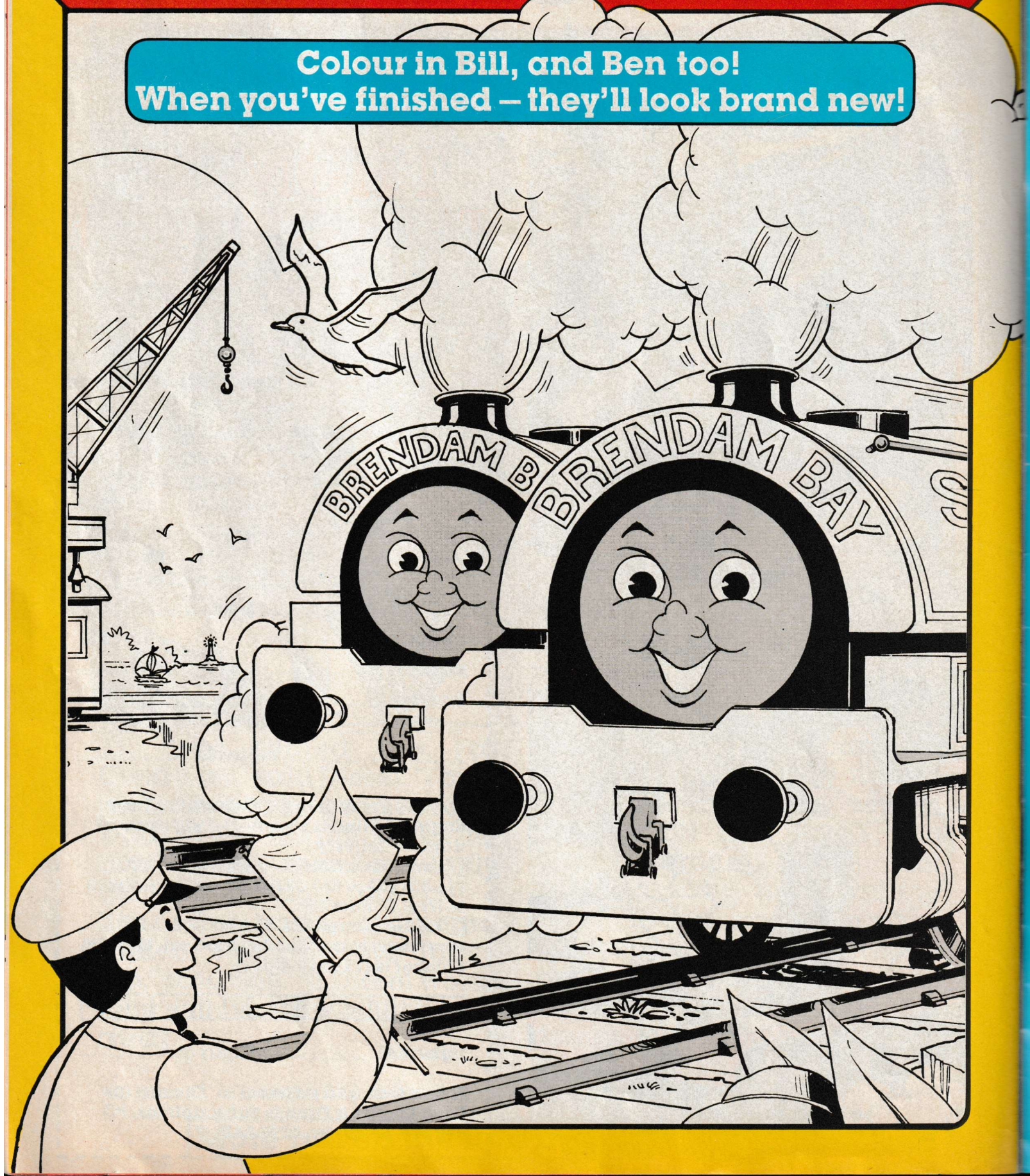
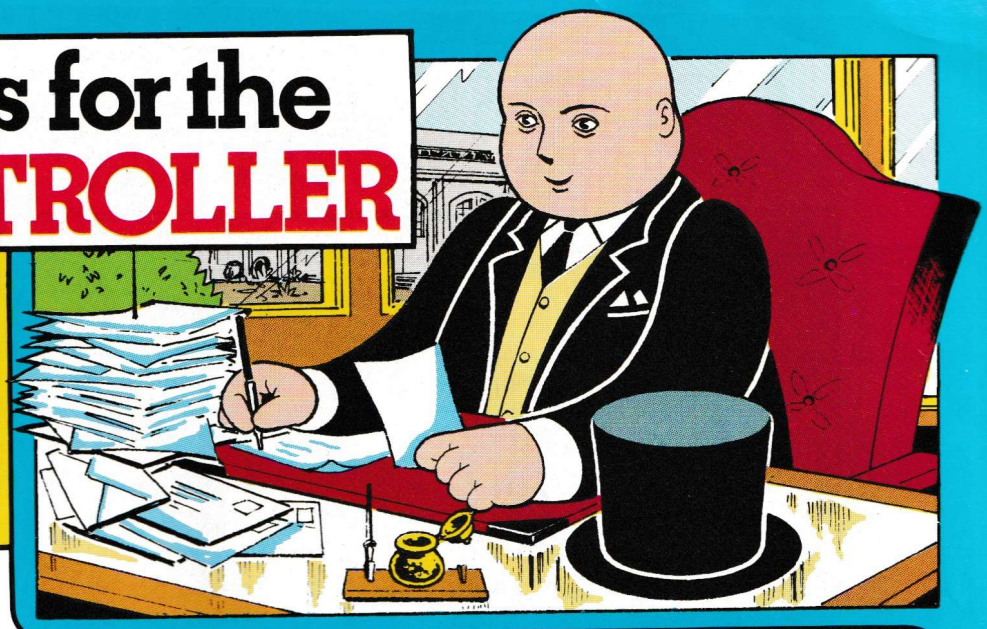
COLOURING TIME!

Colour in Bill, and Ben too!
When you've finished – they'll look brand new!



Your letters for the FAT CONTROLLER



Have you got an amusing story to tell? Do you have a question you would like to ask about Thomas or his friends? If so, then write to me at the address shown below! I would be so very pleased to hear from you!

STAR LETTER!

Dear Fat Controller,
I have got a pair of socks with **Thomas the Tank Engine** on them! They are my favourite socks and I especially love wearing them when I am watching **Thomas the Tank Engine** on the television!

Love from **Matthew,** aged 5.

Upon my soul... *what a coincidence! My two young grandchildren, Stephen and Bridget, also have a pair of* ***Thomas the Tank Engine*** *socks, too! I am sure they are splendid for keeping your toes nice and warm in this cold weather!*

The sender of any letter that is printed as our **STAR LETTER** will win a splendid **Thomas the Tank lunchbox and flask** – from *Bluebird Toys (UK) Ltd.*

A SPLENDID TIME!

Dear Fat Controller,
It was my birthday last week and my daddy bought me a budgerigar as a present. I have decided to call him Percy, because when he chirps he sounds just like Percy letting off steam on your railway!

From **Anna,** aged 5.

Well, well... that ***is*** *splendid! I am sure that Percy will be honoured when I tell him that you've named your budgerigar after him!*

SPLENDID HOLIDAY!

Dear Fat Controller,
We are on holiday at Wells, next to the sea! I have been to the beach everyday! I have also seen a small green engine that looks like Percy. We are staying in a caravan and I have just had a nice cup of tea!
Love from **Jonathon,** aged 4.

My, my. . . what a busy time you seem to be having! I think a nice cup of tea is just what I would like right now, too!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Our very best birthday wishes go out to:

Simon Miller (27542), Adrian Bartuff (29310), Peter Osbourne, Alison Hodge, Jonathan Dickenson, Samuel Cooke (28973), Adam Keith Spencer, Edward Gubbins, Ian Tanner (31102), Eric Creland (9333), Benjamin Chant (28694), David Gould, Nadine Frazer, James McIsaac (30459), Neil Stevenson, Steven Stokes (25483), Oliver Sadler (22587), Philip Abbot, Jamie Snell (30308), Linda Locke, Andrew Mailes, Mark Hall (30963), Michael Newhouse, Adam Skinner (18905) and Karl M. Gregory (27414).

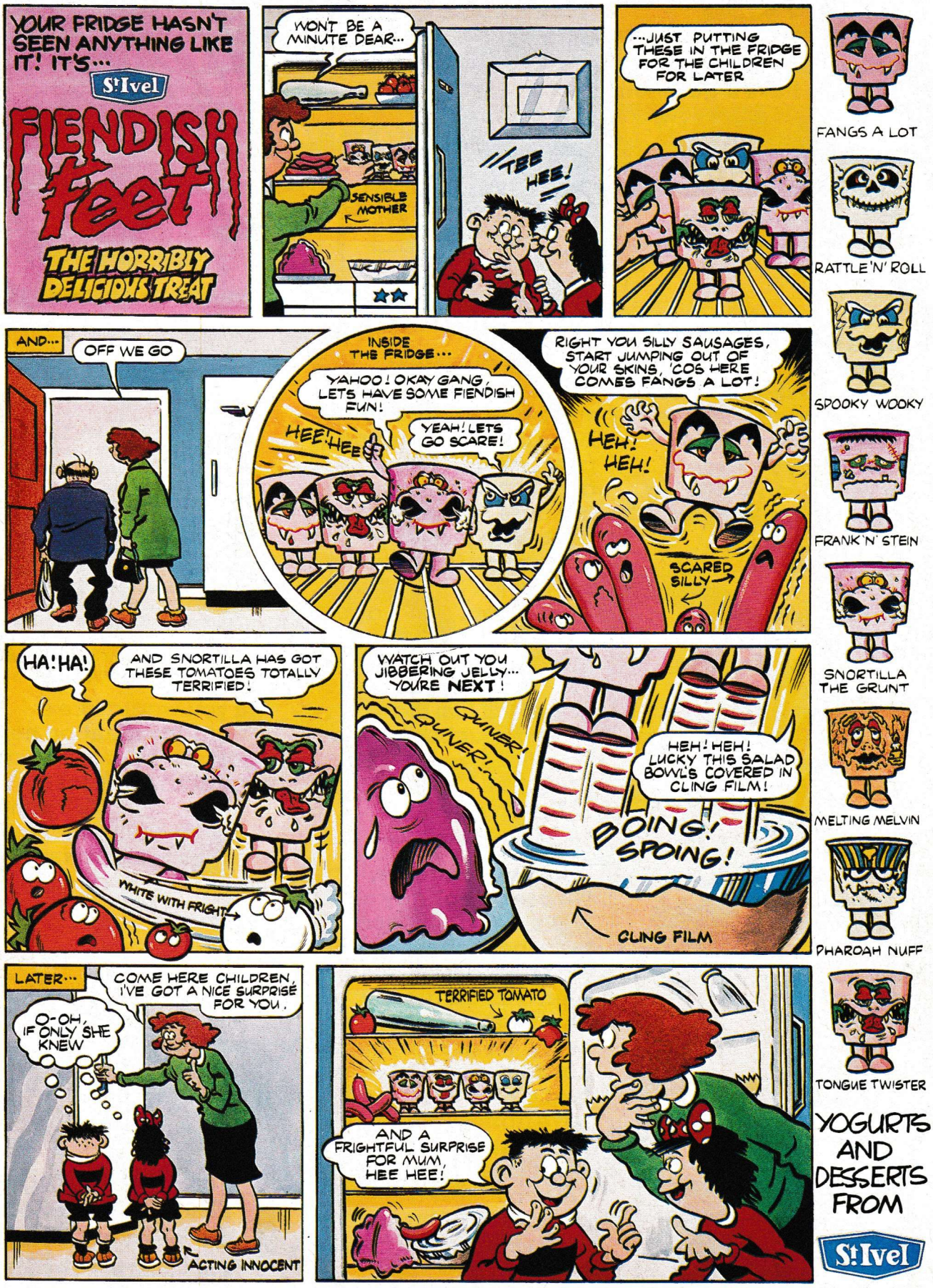
If you would like a birthday mention here, just send details on a postcard, at least **9 weeks in advance**. We cannot promise to print all the birthdays, but we will do our very best.

Yours,

Sir Topham Hatt

the Fat Controller.

Send your letters to:

The Fat Controller
The Island of Sodor
c/o Marvel Comics Ltd
13/15 Arundel Street
London WC2.

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